ABrief History-

In 1862 the Catholic Diocese of Monterey-Los Angeles acquired the first parcel of what would become Cemetery Memorial Park.

The cemetery grounds were expanded in 1870 when the First Presbyterian Church acquired an adjacent property for a public cemetery. By 1882 formal and informal sections were set up for other religious and ethnic groups, including one for Chinese plots.

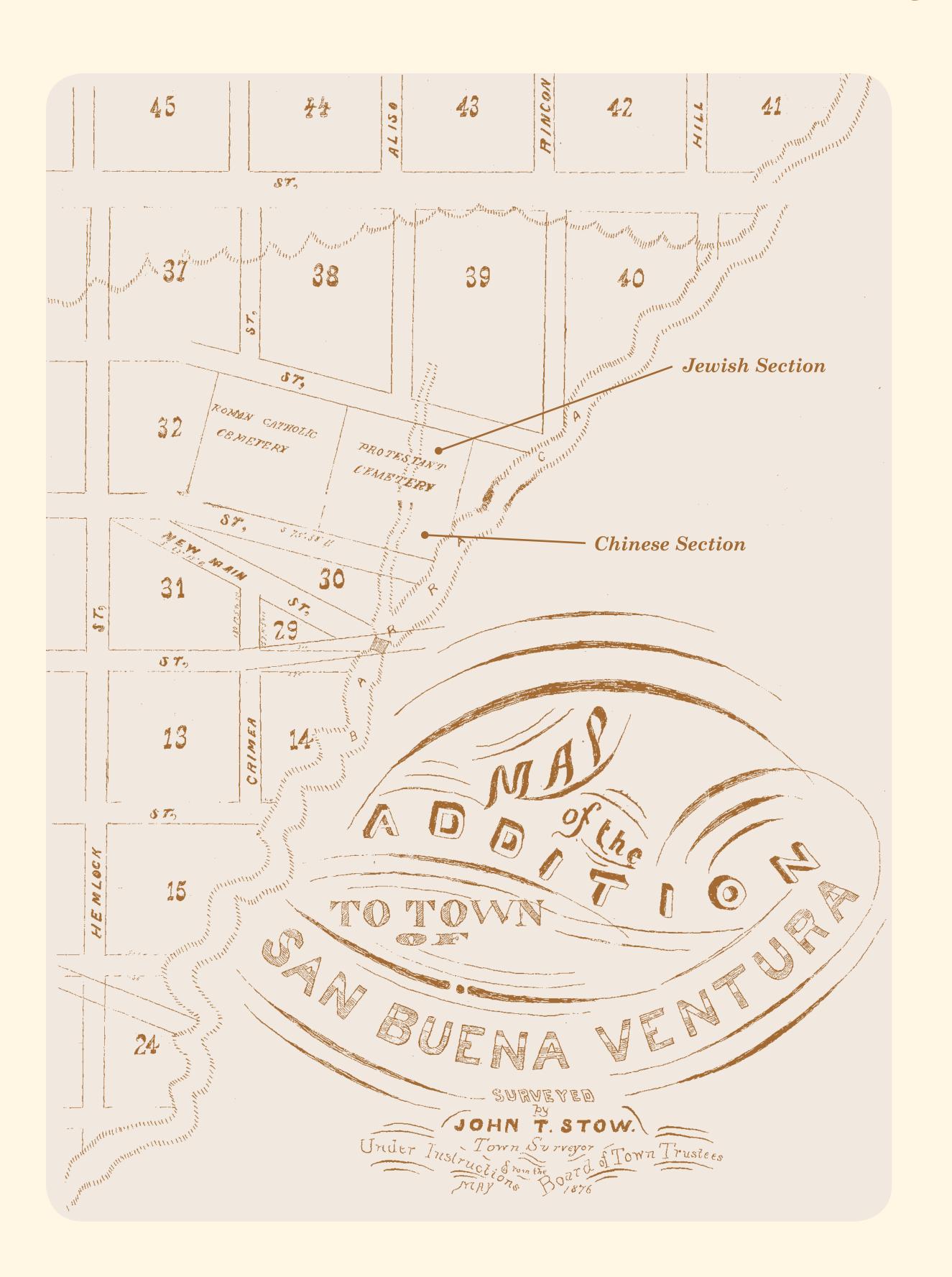
The Catholic Church consecrated its sector as St. Mary's Cemetery in 1883 and the Jewish community was deeded plots in 1895. In 1889 the City



A rare snowfall c.1948. Photo: San Buenaventura Conservancy

of San Buenaventura acquired the Presbyterian parcel, officially becoming the city's only public burial grounds.

ajor improvements to the cemetery occurred in the 1930s, with the construction of a river rock wall and concrete staircases along its Main Street and Aliso Lane boundaries.



In 1944, the City Council adopted an ordinance prohibiting burials in any cemetery within the city limits. Many pioneers originally buried here were gradually re-interred at Ivy Lawn Cemetery.

eeds from 1950 to
1965 granted the
remaining Catholic Church
property to the City of San
Buenaventura. By that
time, the burial grounds
had become neglected and
rundown. In 1965, the
city began preparations



netery 1964. Photo: Museum

to convert the land to a public park by removing the headstones and monuments, creating Cemetery

Memorial Park.

In 2012, new entrance signs and a Veterans
Memorial were installed along with interpretive
signs and improved landscaping to inform visitors
about Cemetery Memorial Park's history and to
honor the people still buried below the park's
sweeping lawns.





